

Broken Arrow Ceremony

Introduction:

This ceremony is a final tribute to a deceased Arrowman who has served cheerfully to help others and has lived the Scout Promise and Law in his daily life. It is preformed at the wake and with the consent of the deceased's family. It is proper that the Lodge and/or Chapter Adviser, Chief, and the acting Allowat Sakima and Meteu offer proper condolences to the deceased's family. All available Order of the Arrow members should be in full uniform and OA sash.

Materials:

Arrow that has been painted red with notch in center of shaft
Scouting history of the deceased

Ceremony:

The brothers file into the parlor forming two equal lines extending from each end of the casket. One line is lead by Allowat Sakima while the other line is led by Meteu. Once in position, the Brothers shall cross arms, right over left, and join hands with the Brothers on each side. An arrow (which has been previously painted red) will be carried by the second Brother in Meteu's line. Once in position, the arrow is held between the second and third Brother in Meteu's line. Each of these Brothers shall hold the arrow opposite ends, leaving a space in the line bridged by the arrow, to indicate the spirit of the departed brother. Allowat Sakima and Meteu will be in full Scout or Explorer uniform with OA sash and will wear appropriate Indian head dress. Allowat Sakima and Meteu step out in front of the casket about three feet and face the mourners.

Meteu: **We are members of _____ Chapter, Owasippe Lodge, Order of the Arrow. The Order of the Arrow is a society of Scouts and Scouters who have been recognized by their fellow Scouts for their outstanding devotion to the high ideals of the Scout Oath and Law. Its foundation is brotherhood in cheerful service modeled after the Delaware Indians. We have come to pay our final tribute to our departed Brother.**

Our mighty chief shall now relate a brief Scouting history of our Brother.
(Nods and turns to Allowat Sakima)

Allowat Sakima: **(Gives a brief Scouting history of the departed Brother. Information may be obtained from personal history forms or close Scouting friends).**

(Nods and turns to Allowat Sakima)

Meteu: **Peace my Brothers of the Arrow
Of this Lodge and humble tribe,
Bear with me this obligation
To our Brother gone before us
On the trail of fulfillment.**

**He who camped and served among us,
He who always stood beside us
Now has left his earthly trail
For the trail of his maker.**

**Let us in our hearts and minds
Remember he who was our brother
On the Earth but now in spirit,
Remember (name of deceased) who is our Brother.**

Meteu gets arrow which has been held between the second and third Brothers in his line. These Brothers **will not join hands** when the arrow is taken by Meteu. The space in the line is to remain as an indication of the position formally held by the departed brother. The arrow should be taken and given with both hands on the arrow at all times during transfers. Meteu then passes the arrow to Allowat Sakima. Allowat Sakima takes the arrow with both hands.

Allowat Sakima: **As a symbol of our Order, the arrow has been fitly chosen. It must be straight, its point keen. Aimed high, its course is undeviated. Its direction onward and upward. It therefore becomes a symbol of leadership. The breaking of the arrow (break arrow) is symbolic of the end of strife and the beginning of peace.**

(Place arrow on the deceased with the point over the right shoulder or give the arrow to the widow or family member. OA sash can be placed across the deceased's chest by Meteu).

Meteu, will you give us a prayer?

Meteu: **Oh, Great Spirit,
Hear us in our prayer this evening,
A final tribute to our brother.**

**He who loved the haunts of nature,
Loved the moonlight on the water,
Loved the sunshine on the meadow,
Loved the shadow of the forest,
Loved the wind among the branches,
Loved the rushing of great rivers,
Loved the thunder of the mountains,
And all of nature in its splendor,
Found in nature his duty to man,
And pledged himself to cheerful service,
Serving his Master and the Man.**

**Rest Brother, we have known you well indeed
And now in peace you will sleep.
You have done your work and done it well
So none of us need weep.
In Scouting we will miss your smile
And your friendly handclasp. (pause for 15 to 20 seconds)
So may it be.**

Allowat Sakima then leads his line past the casket and files out of the parlor. Meteu then follows by leading his line past the casket and also files out of the parlor.

This ceremony was originally developed by Naju Amochol Chapter, Owaspippe Lodge #7.

This ceremony may be adapted as a memorial ceremony at the OA fire ring.